

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

(a) receiving a polling request via a shared communications channel, wherein said polling request specifies a destination for a subsequent transmission via said shared communications channel; and

(b) determining whether to add the sender of said polling request to a polling schedule based on whether said destination is associated with an emergency call center.

2. Cancel

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein (b) is also based on a destination specified by a prior polling request, wherein the sender of said prior polling request is in said polling schedule.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising

(c) determining whether to delete the sender of a prior polling request from said polling schedule based on the destination specified by said prior polling request.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:

(d) deleting the sender of said prior polling request from said polling schedule; and

(e) adding the sender of said polling request to said polling schedule; when:

the destination specified by said polling request is associated with an emergency call center, and

the destination specified by said prior polling request is unassociated with any emergency call center.

6. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

(a) receiving a polling request via a shared communications channel, wherein said polling request specifies a destination for a subsequent transmission via said shared communications channel; and

(b) determining a position in a polling schedule for the sender of said polling request based on whether said destination is associated with an emergency call center.

7. Cancel

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein (b) is also based on a destination specified by a prior polling request, wherein the sender of said prior polling request is in said polling schedule.

9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

(a) receiving a polling request via a shared communications channel, wherein said polling request specifies a destination for a subsequent transmission via said shared communications channel; and

(b) determining transmission opportunity duration in a polling schedule for the sender of said polling request based on whether said destination is associated with an emergency call center.

10. Cancel

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein (b) is also based on a destination specified by a prior polling request, wherein the sender of said prior polling request is in said polling schedule.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

(c) determining a position in said polling schedule for the sender of said polling request based on said destination.

13. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving via a shared-communications channel

(i) a first frame comprising a first source, a first destination, and a first payload, and

(ii) a second frame comprising a second source, a second destination, and a second payload; and transmitting via said shared-communications channel

(iii) a third frame comprising a poll and said first payload, and

(iv) a fourth frame comprising a poll and said second payload

in an order based on whether said first source and said second source is associated with an emergency call center when said first destination and said second destination are in a polling schedule.

14. Cancel

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said order is also based on the positions of said first destination and said second destination in said polling schedule.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a receiver for receiving a polling request via a shared communications channel, wherein said polling request specifies a destination for a subsequent transmission via said shared communications channel; and

a processor for determining, based on whether said destination is associated with an emergency call center, at least one of:

whether to add the sender of said polling request to a polling schedule, a position in said polling schedule for the sender of said polling request, and a transmission opportunity duration for the sender of said polling request.

17. Cancel

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said processor's determining is also based on a destination specified by a prior polling request, wherein the sender of said prior polling request is in said polling schedule.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing a polling schedule;

a receiver for receiving via a shared-communications channel

(i) a first frame comprising a first source, a first destination, and a first payload, and

(ii) a second frame comprising a second source, a second destination, and a second payload; and a processor for:

generating a third frame comprising a poll and said first payload,

generating a fourth frame comprising a poll and said second payload, and

determining, based on whether at least one of said first source and said second source is associated with an emergency call center, an order in which to transmit said third frame and said fourth frame when said first destination and said second destination are in said polling schedule.

20. Cancel

21. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining a transmission opportunity duration in a polling schedule for the sender of said polling request based on whether said destination is associated with an emergency call center.

22. (New) The method of claim 6 further comprising determining a transmission opportunity duration in a polling schedule for the sender of said polling request based on whether said destination is associated with an emergency call center.

23. (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising determining a transmission opportunity duration in a polling schedule for the sender of said polling request based on whether said destination is associated with an emergency call center.